



KARLA DICKENS

YOU WINESOME YOU LOSE SOME

ARTIST'S STATEMENT—FOR THE EXHIBITION 'YOU WINESOME YOU LOSE SOME'

I am a Wiradjuri woman, artist, mother, upheld with the power of an my eagle totem, and bower bird by nature.

Presented with a the project titled 'Home' I was became flooded with visual images. I have always wrestled with the idea of a home on many levels. What is a 'home'? A roof, a river, a sky, country, belonging, memories, an abandoned nest. Hope.

Earlier this year my home, became a roof and four walls that were closing in, I started to collect bird cages, I embedded them in the frame of an old caravan. The cage doors were left open as freedom became attractive. In a struggle with social conformity I realised no matter what a bird's flight entailed, a nest was needed. A safe resting place.

The Winesome Cafe is a safe resting place, a watering hole, a feeding bowl, a large communal nest.

Void of white picket fences and conformity, this reclaimed pub shelters a tight-knit community, woven together by support, basic essentials and a sense of belonging. The images I have chosen to work on with the community are birds (sparkling bunting) flagging the building and nests built from found materials representing the human nesting instinct. Embracing the connection of structural objects are a number of projections: one of washing on a line, one flowing with various bird images, another holding images of abandoned houses with long-held memories along with one sporting faces at times set behinds masks of a number of people I have had the privilege to spend time with on this journey.

As bed springs swing, enjoy the warmth of our fire.



FIVE GUARDIANS (DETAIL)

Mixed media

Polyptych (five pieces)—dimensions variable

\$11,000



FIVE GUARDIANS (DETAIL)



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FIVE GUARDIANS (DETAIL)



Braveheart 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

\$2,200



DREAM WOMAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

\$2,200



FAIRY MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

\$2,200



FATHER MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

\$2,200



RAINBOW BOY 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

60 x 90 cm

\$2,200



VISION MAN 2014

Inkjet print, edition 9

90 x 60 cm

\$2,200



YOU WINESOME YOU LOSE SOME AS INSTALLED AT TARRAWARRA BIENNIAL 2014: WHISPER IN MY MASK, TARRAWARRA MUSEUM OF ART, HEALESVILLE, VICTORIA

KARLA DICKENS

Born 1967, Sydney
Heritage Wiradjuri

EDUCATION

2000 Bachelor of Fine Arts, National Art School, Sydney
1993 Diploma of Fine Arts, National Art School, Sydney

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 *Black Dogs, Love and Crutches*, Andrew Baker Art Dealer, Brisbane
2012 *Field and Game*, The Hughes Gallery, Sydney
2011 *Home is Where the Rabbits Live*, Firstdraft, Sydney
2010 *The Black Madonna*, Casula Powerhouse, Sydney; Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
Beloved Mother, Dacou, Alstonville, New South Wales
2009 *In Loving Memory I Found the Black Madonna*, Museum of Brisbane, Queensland
2008 *Karla Dickens*, Iain Dawson Gallery, Sydney
Loving Memory, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales
2005 *Home*, Next Contemporary Art Space, Southern Cross University, Lismore, New South Wales
2004 *Our Lady of Triana*, Black Fellas Dreaming, Sydney
Urban Aboriginals, Black Fellas Dreaming, Bangalow, New South Wales
2003 *Love, Luck & Lust*, A-Space on Cleveland, Sydney
2002 *Sheilas Downunder*, Pine Street Gallery, Sydney
2001 *Unwind*, A-Space on Cleveland, Sydney
2000 *Now Nowhere Here*, DQ Gallery, Sydney
1998 *Cross Works*, Guardella, Italy,
No Limits, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney

JOINT EXHIBITIONS

2014 *The Honey and the Bunny* (with Monica Oppens), Southern Cross University Library, Lismore, New South Wales
2011 *Mother of All* (with Ishta Wilson), Tweed River Art Gallery, Murwillumbah, New South Wales

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2015*, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Bungaree's Farm, The Tanks/Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
Blak Nite Screen 2015, City of Melbourne, Treasury Gardens, Melbourne
Cementa 15: Biennial Contemporary Arts Festival, Kandos, New South Wales
2014 *TarraWarra Biennial 2014: Whisper in My Mask*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Healesville, Victoria

	<i>Hereby Make Protest</i> , Carriageworks, Sydney
2013	<i>The Art of Sound</i> , Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>The Native Institute</i> , Blacktown Arts Centre, New South Wales <i>Parliament of New South Wales Aboriginal Art Prize</i> , Parliament House, Sydney
2012–15	<i>Bungaree: The First Australian</i> , Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney; Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales; The Glasshouse, Port Macquarie, New South Wales
2012	<i>Home</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney <i>Feminage: The Logic of Feminist Collage</i> , The Cross Art Projects, Sydney
2011	<i>People We Know—Places We’ve Been</i> , Goulburn Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>Thank you for the days: My Teenage Years</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>Pink Sunrise</i> , Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney <i>Freedom Riders</i> , University Art Gallery, The University of Sydney, New South Wales <i>Fairytales in Fairyland</i> , Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton, New South Wales
2010	<i>Safari: Biennale of Sydney Fringe</i> , MOP, Sydney <i>Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award</i> , Parliament House, Sydney <i>Articles of Interest</i> , SCI Next Art Gallery, Lismore, New South Wales <i>Lest We Forget</i> , Dacou, Alstonville, New South Wales
2009	<i>Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award</i> , Parliament House, Sydney (touring New South Wales regional galleries) <i>Connections</i> , NPWS Art, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
2008	<i>Messages of Peace</i> , Gallery XX, Settembre, Italy <i>Fisher’s Ghost Art Award</i> , Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales <i>Confidential Business Project</i> , Casula Powerhouse, Sydney <i>Australian Values</i> , Next Art Gallery, Southern Cross University, Lismore, New South Wales <i>Premier State</i> , Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales <i>Identity</i> , Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>The Year of the Apology</i> , Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
2007	<i>Parliament of New South Wales Indigenous Art Award</i> , Parliament House, Sydney (touring New South Wales regional galleries) <i>Past, Present, Future</i> , Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>3 in 10</i> , Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
2006	<i>Chrysalis: The Emergence of Northern Rivers Artists</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales <i>The Pink, The Black and the Beautiful</i> , Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney <i>Our Spirit Our Country</i> , <i>Bungjalung Art Award</i> , Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales

- 2005 *Group of Eleven Artists—NAIDOC Week*, Waverley Library, Sydney
- 2004 *Nice Coloured Dolls*, 24HR Art Northern Territory Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin
- 2003 *Hung, Drawn and Quartered*, Tin Sheds Gallery, University of Sydney, New South Wales
- 2001 *Aboriginal Ways of Knowing*, Macy Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA
- 1999 *Perspecta: Love Magic*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- Arone Meeks & Co.*, Coeee Aboriginal Gallery, Sydney
- 1998 *National Indigenous Heritage Art Award*, Old Parliament House, Canberra
- Co-existence—Sorry*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
- 1997 *Stars on the Net*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1996 *Never the Less*, John Paynter Gallery, Newcastle, New South Wales
- 1995 *Portia Geach Memorial Award*, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 1994 *Festival of Fisher's Ghost*, Campbelltown City Art Gallery, New South Wales
- Recognising the Republic*, Michael Nagy Fine Art Gallery, Sydney

AWARDS

- 2013 Winner, *New South Wales Parliament Art Prize*, NSW Parliament, Sydney
- 2009 Runner-up, *NPWS Northern Rivers Region Aboriginal Art Award*, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
- 2007 Winner, *NPWS Northern Rivers Region Aboriginal Art Award*, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales
- 2006 Winner, *NPWS Northern Rivers Region Aboriginal Art Award*, Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina, New South Wales

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anon. 'Freedom Riders', *Sydney University Museums News*, Art and Aboriginal Rights Special Feature, Sydney, June 2011
- Anon. 'Remembering 'Humanity Lost': Karla Dickens and Aris Prabawa', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 244, October 2011, pp. 66–67
- Anon. 'The medicine of creation', *GPSpeak*, October 2011
- Balodis, Janis. 'The healing art of transformation', *Health Speak*, Summer 2015
- Behrendt, Larissa. Hereby Make Protest review—a historical reflection on Aboriginal activism, *The Guardian*, 18 June 2014
- Fraser, Virginia. 'Bungaree, the First Australian interrupted', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 262, August 2013, pp. 9–12
- Geczy, Adam. 'The Native Institute', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 263 September 2014, p. 56
- King, Natalie, Mundine, Djon and Cruikshank, Alan. 'Whisper in my mask', *Contemporary Visual Art+Culture Broadsheet*, Issue 43.2, 2014

Leane, Jeanine. 'Karla Dickens: Continuing the Dialogue', *Art and Australia*, May 2104, 51.4
Mundine, Professor Djon OAM (editor). *Bungaree: The First Australian* [ex.cat.], Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney; Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales, 2012, p. 11 and pp. 38–39
Mundine, Professor Djon OAM. 'Conversations with a Crow', *Art Monthly Australia*, Issue 212, August 2008, pp. 40–42
O'Riordan, Maurice. 'Where Eagles Hover', *Artlink*, Volume 18 Number 1, March 1999
O'Riordan, Maurice. 'What's up, Karla', *Karla Dickens: Home is Where the Rabbit Lives* [ex. cat.], Firstdraft/Arts NSW, Sydney, 2011
O'Riordan, Maurice. 'In My Painting, At My Window', *Karla Dickens: Loving Memory* [ex. cat.], Lismore Regional Gallery, 2008
Parker, Luke and Stephen, Ann (editors). *Freedom Riders: Art and Activism 1960s to Now*, University Art Gallery, The University of Sydney, Sydney, 2011
Taffel, Jacqui. 'Story of Bungaree explored on the site that was once his', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 February 2015
Taylor, Andrew. 'Wrapped in colours of denial: Finalists in an Aboriginal art prize aren't afraid of controversy', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 October 2013
Zafiriou, Yiorgos. 'Karla Dickens: It's Not Bloody Art—It's Work!', *Artlink*, Issue 35:2 Artlink Indigenous Global, June 2015

COLLECTIONS

National Museum of Australia, Canberra
Black Fellas Dreaming Museum, Sydney
Campbelltown City Art Centre, New South Wales
Grafton Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
Lismore Regional Art Gallery, New South Wales
University of Technology, Sydney
UBS Warburg Collection, Sydney

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